

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

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R 172200Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0371
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 2586

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, BEXP, HO

SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION OF PORT ON GULF OF FONSECA

REF: STATE A-932

1. MINECON OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF GOH PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A MODERN DEEP-WATER PORT AT A SITE CALLED BOCA DE ENECAN (ABOUT 1 KM FROM SAN LORENZO). CONSTRUCTION IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN BY MID-AUGUST 1975 AND BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 1977.

2. WORK ON THIS PORT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MARCH 1975 BUT WAS DELAYED BECAUSE BIDS RECEIVED IN JANUARY 1975 WERE MUCH HIGHER THAN GOH HAD ANTICIPATED. GOH HAS DECLARED THAT IT WILL DETERMINE CONTRACT WINNER THROUGH AN ADMINISTRATIVE RATHER THAN A BIDDING PROCEDURE. THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE WILL INVOLVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TWO LOWEST BIDDERS. THEY ARE: 1) A CONSORTIUM OF COLUMBUS LATINOAMERICANA (A MULTINATIONAL FIRM WITH HEADQUARTERS IN PANAMA) AND EMPRESA LAVORI PORTUALI COSTRUZIONI (AN ITALIAN FIRM WHICH HAS HAD NO EXPERIENCE IN HONDURAS); 2) AMSTERDAM BALLAST INTERNATIONAL.

3. GOH SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF
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THIS PROJECT WILL BE U.S. \$8.5 MILLION. THE WORLD BANK WILL

PROVIDE 60 PERCENT OF THE COST AND THE GOH THE REMAINDER.

4. THE PORT COMPLEX WILL COVER AN AREA OF 60,000 SQUARE METERS. IT WILL HAVE A REINFORCED CONCRETE DOCK 145 METERS LONG AND 50 METERS WIDE. THE DOCK WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE PORT AREA BY A 30 METER LONG CONCRETE BRIDGE. THREE LARGE WAREHOUSES, AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, AND SEVERAL MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE NO TRADE OPPORTUNITIES ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP IMMEDIATELY AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT, SIGNIFICANT SALES OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. MANUFACTURED CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, ETC. SHOULD DEVELOP BY EARLY 1977.
SOWASH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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